

Alice E. Augustine, "	1 00
Mrs. A. D. Gnagey, in full, "	1 00
The Mrs. J. Cunningham and O. Turner,	1 00
The Mrs. E. Miller and T. A. Kyzer,	1 00
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To treasurer of Ashland University,	\$ 50 20
	60 00
Overdrawn,	\$ 9 80
HOME MISSIONS	
Reported,	\$ 177 57
Summit Mills, Pa., S. S. C. E.,	3 30
Loree, Ind., "	1 50
Alice E. Augustine, on pledge,	1 00
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	\$ 183 37
To secretary of N. M. B.,	10 00
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Total,	\$ 173 37
FOREIGN MISSIONS	
Reported,	\$ 80
Miss Vianna Detwiler, on pledge,	1 00
Alice E. Augustine, "	1 00
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Total,	\$ 2 80
SUPERANNUATED MINISTERS' FUND	
Reported,	\$ 1 86
Marcus, Iowa, S. S. C. E.,	1 00
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Total,	\$ 2 86
HOLSINGER FUND	
Collection N. conference,	\$ 27 10
" " "	11 10
Guilford Leslie in full on pledge,	6 00
David Augustine, " "	6 00
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	\$ 50 20
To Brother Holsinger,	10 00
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Total,	\$ 40 20
ORGANIZER'S FUND	
	\$ 72 68
Miss Detwiler, order No. 27,	1 07
" " " " 28,	1 61
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Total,	\$ 70 00

ALICE E. AUGUSTINE,

Box 477, South Bend, Ind.

To the S. S. C. E. of Indiana

Two years ago our sisters of Indiana thought the time had come when a state organization should be effected, and upon this conviction officers were elected, and a committee appointed to draft a constitution to be acted upon the following year.

In Oct. 1898 the sisters assembled at South Bend, heard the reading of an elaborated constitution, comprehension in detail and far reaching in possibilities. Owing to lack of time, however, but a small part of it was acted upon, and the state organization was left in about the same condition as before, with no plans for work and no authority vested in the officers which would enable them to urge to any special effort. The one work which the president was requested to do by the unanimous action of the sisters assembled, she did faithfully, but with little response or encouragement. Pursuant to instructions I procured Ashland University Endowment blanks and sent to twenty societies, together with a letter written in a Christian spirit and couched in courteous terms, asking that the local societies consider the needs of the college, if possible fill out and sign pledge and return to me. I also asked that I might be placed in communication with the officers of the local societies, that by mutual knowledge and consent we

might all work together for good. In response to the effort I received answer from the Oakville, Roann, Kinzie and Flora societies, letters of kindly spirit, but stating that they were unable to take the pledge. I sent no letter to the Dunlaps society, knowing that they had already taken a pledge. All the other sixteen societies treated the letters, the request and the writer with—what? silent contempt, indifference, or just ordinary discourtesy?

The fact that local societies enter so little into the spirit of cooperation in Christian effort, together with other reasons, convinces me that we are not yet ready for state organization. Also, it would be unwise, in my opinion, to adopt this year any state constitution which might easily conflict with the revised national constitution which will be submitted to the next national conference and by that body adopted in some form. It is probable that the revised constitution will provide for state and district bodies, making it possible to work systematically and profitably, and in strict harmony with the national organization. No state should so plan its work as to conflict in any degree with the national work.

Our vice president, sister Leslie, suggests however, that it might be well to elect a state president and secretary for the coming year for the purpose of securing and keeping accurate reports of the work done in Indiana, and make such report at next state conference. These reports always exceed our expectations. We are always surprised and gratified to learn that our feeble efforts amount to so much in the aggregate. Our brethren too are made glad, and all the brotherhood may more fully realize the force and scope of our work; and this demonstration of facts may be a source of inspiration to the indifferent and a convincing argument to the incredulous. Therefore, for these and other reasons, if the sisters favor the suggestion, it might be wise to elect such officers for such purpose.

All in all, as a state we stand second to none in the brotherhood. Along all lines we are doing our share, but dear sisters we might do more. I am convinced that the women who are interested are doing every thing they can. As in all church work, the few who are interested, willing, self sacrificing, are using every talent and giving generously of time and means to sustain the cause. But how to interest the uninterested; how to secure the attention and service of those who withhold talent, energy, influence and encouragement; this is the problem which confronts every Christian worker in every avenue of Christian usefulness. If this problem could be solved we would soon see the Son of Man coming in His righteousness.

We cannot change human nature directly, but thru the educating influence of institutions under which it lives and develops we can direct it. We can only take one step at a time, perhaps falteringly as we gain strength, and still reach forward in our efforts toward another as we obtain light from ex-

perience and confidence from our hopes. And so my sisters we will be encouraged. We will not fail, we will not falter. We will look steadily forward, seeking each day a surer faith, a purer heart, and added strength, a more resigned will and consecrated wisdom.

For much attention can be given to devotional meetings, where we can seek wisdom and strength and faith thru intercourse with God. Our spiritual life as members and as a society should never be secondary to our ambitions to succeed financially. "Seek first the kingdom of God and all these shall be added unto you."

I would earnestly exhort our members to loyalty in behalf of Ashland College. This institution is the foundation of every enterprise of the church. Upon the success of this college rests the success of every undertaking, the realization of every hope.

As we look forward with the hope of seeing our publishing house a mighty instrument for enunciating the whole gospel, carrying cheering news and needed information and the intelligent utterances of thoughtful minds to the uttermost parts of the earth; as our hearts turn yearningly to the untaught millions who know not God's love and mercy; and to whom we long to send messengers of glad tidings; as with just pride we hope to see within our midst a ministry that can teach and lead the great as well as the small, the learned as well as the unlearned, the philosopher as well as the carpenter, the sage of India as well as the vagrant of Chicago; as we see our young people, our sons and daughters, with their eager activities and questioning minds needing to be wisely directed into fields of usefulness by well trained minds and consecrated hearts; as we see hideous sin lifting its form exultingly before our eyes and boasting of its power over human nature, and we realize that the wisest, most intelligent thought of the age should be directed to the defeat of the ugly foe; as we think of it all we look to the college as a source of deliverance, in the hope, yes, in the sure faith that she will supply every need, meet every legitimate want.

May the blessings of God rest upon this conference, upon our church and all its institutions, upon all God's people and every Christian effort.

H. HELEN FRANCE.

State President.

Flora, Ind.

Dear Sisters of the S. S. C. E.:—Thinking a communication from the Flora, Ind. society might interest, and perhaps encourage, some of our sisters, I shall improve the opportunity offered by our editor and occupy a portion of the space allotted to the S. S. C. E.

Having become somewhat dilatory during the summer and desiring to revive our society, we organized, electing Sister Snoeberger president. We numbered about fifteen members at that time, but added several new ones the same day. Soon afterward Sister Detwiler visited us, and her visit together with the interest and energy of our president